

ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
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NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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As of March 1, 2006

All potatoes in storage in **ALASKA** as of March 1, 2006 totaled 93,000 cwt. This was 56 percent of the 2005 crop and compares with 106,000 cwt or 60 percent on hand during the same period last year. The 2003 level for the March 1 stocks was 62,000 cwt. The five year average stocks on hand for March 1 is 90,200 cwt.

Disappearance since January 1 was 25,000 cwt, compared to 20,000 cwt for the same period last year. The five year average disappearance between January and March is 26,600 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes from the start of the harvest to March 1 totaled 73,000 cwt; comparable disappearance for a year earlier was 71,000 cwt. The five year average disappearance is 81,400 cwt. The disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused after harvest by late blight and frost damage. In 2005 late blight was identified in fields in the Mat-Su Valley. Losses in the field due to late blight ranged from severe to mild. Losses post-harvest are included in the disappearance. In 2004 there was a small loss of potatoes due to frost damage, while in 2003 there was significant loss due to frost damage that is reflected in the disappearance.

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purpose and uses, including seed potatoes that are not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report.

The **13 MAJOR POTATO STATES** held 154 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2006, down 8 percent from last year and 7 percent below March 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 41 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance of 219 million cwt of potatoes is down 6 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 20.1 million cwt so far this season, is down 18 percent from last year for comparable States.

Processors in the 9 major States have used 115 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 3 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 23.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 11 percent from both last year and the same date in 2004.

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ALASKA POTATO STOCKS – MARCH 1, 2006

	STOCKS			PRODUCTION	Mar. 1 Stocks as Percent of Production
	MAR. 1	FEB. 1	JAN. 1		
	----- 1,000 Cwt -----				-- Percent --
2005	93.0	106.0	118.0	166.0	56%
2004	106.0	114.0	126.0	177.0	60%
2003	62.0	71.0	90.0	168.0	37%

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